

PRACC Meeting May 26, 2022

Attendance: Jai Baker, Sherea Burnett, Anquinnette Lewis, Miriam James-Torres, Melanie York, Cathy Waugh, Zoe Gillispie, Robin Wintringham, Arius Rowe, Allie Card, Brittany Jones, Jose Morel, Sandi Daniel, Maxcine Barnes

Meeting was called to order by Jai Baker.

Minutes and the Agenda were reviewed, and no corrections were made. Sherea Burnett made the motion to accept the minutes and agenda and second was given by Maxcine Barnes.

First item for discussion is funding for the region. Central Piedmont Community Action funding for ESG for COVID \$292,404. Funds spent through May 25, 2022 are \$279,210. There is roughly \$13,000 left to assist clients in Chatham County to find and secure housing. The ESG Annual budget, which Chatham County also holds, has not spent any of the funds as of yet. Those funds break down as remaining financial services \$49,191 and financial assistance \$73,787. Jai did speak with Natasha briefly and she is ready to start using these funds. The thought is that the funds will not last long. Natasha will give us the date of when the ESG Annual funds will begin being used.

Family Abuse Services funds are now being discussed. With Homelessness Prevention, there are some budget amendments that are happening. The numbers given are as accurate as possible based on what we know at this moment, but will change. The numbers will also change for Rapid Rehousing. Sherea explained that the Executive Director of Family Abuse Services is currently reviewing the amendment to Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Rehousing, but no numbers have been given. As soon as Family Abuse Services receives the numbers, this information will be shared with the region.

Jai brought Allie Card into the discussion, to engage and inform every one of the open Unsheltered Access Coordinator position that remains vacant. Allie spoke with Jai and Natasha separately about engaging other agencies in the region to fill this vacancy. Allie shared that this position was filled last year by Jai, and he has a lot on his plate with Region 6. The position runs from May through April and we are looking to fill this as soon as possible, as we are already in June. The purpose of this role is not to simply run the point in time count one night effort to count all folks experiencing homelessness. Rather, we work across the state and with counties. The thought that this can be done in one night is impossible. Balance of State has shifted and the plan is to do more ongoing street outreach and engaging with people who are experiencing unsheltered homelessness. The purpose of this position is to support the efforts of the region to ensure we are engaging with those who potentially need services. This will educate and engage the community. It would be amazing if someone from the meeting or community would fill this position. **Melanie York shared that Chatham Working Group on Homelessness and Housing Instability has divided into three subcommittees. Jose Morel and she sit on the committee on data collection and identifying need, which is facilitated by three members from TJCOG, Erika Brown, Jack Watson, Anna Blanchard. The group is discussing and have set a goal to expand PIT to a street outreach model.** The committee understand that much planning, training and mapping would be a part of the process. The street outreach model goal is a work in progress. They are looking for CoC leadership and guidance to assist in this. The suggestion was maybe each county have a sub-lead that

reports to the coordinator. Jai shared that may be a good idea and continue discussion on this. Jai will speak with Natasha about this.

Update on Chatham County Housing EHV. Individuals with felonies are not able to use EHV with Chatham County. The goal is find out who control the mandates that surround these regulations. It is understood that HUD regulations are different. Allie shared that EHV can assist with Chatham County Housing Authority even with a person who has felonies. Allie confirmed that they can still be housed with a felony by the Housing Authority.

Amy Steele with Rockingham County shared with Jai there are no openings right now with our Permanent Housing Voucher program for region 6.

Discussion concerning who will apply for RRH and Emergency Shelter funds next year. Jai shared that Allied Churches of Alamance County will be applying for both RRH and Emergency Shelter funds. Person County is going to apply for RRH funds per Sandi, and it will be for Person County. We will have to ask what the other counties are going to do as they are not on the meeting to share if they will be applying for funding.

Cathy shared that families have told them that the school system can assist with hotel stay. She wanted to clarify that everyone is aware that they do NOT have funding to assist with hotel stays. They have been able to reach out to a local church who may be willing to pay for 1 or 2 nights at a hotel. But, they do not have actual funding to pay for hotel stays. There is a difference in definition for homelessness between HUD and McKinney-Vento. This is something that everyone is aware of, but it presents a problem when providing the point in time count. In this case, HUD definition is what is used to determine homelessness. Cathy did share that this is known and this what is used when they are running this count.

The question was raised concerning low barrier shelters. Jai explained that this wasn't a new concept. However, Allied Church has one barrier and that is they are not able enroll sex offenders. This is because there is a family unit on site.

Meeting was adjourned by Jai Baker.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tyese Gabriel